

UPI-220

ADD 10 DEFENSE

THE UNEXPECTED ACTION FOLLOWED A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING BETWEEN TWINING AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE PREPAREDNESS AND SPACE COMMITTEES.

THE SECRET SESSION WAS ORDERED WHEN SYMINGTON HAD CONFRONTED TWINING WITH APPARENTLY TOP-SECRET FIGURES ON RELATIVE U.S. RUSSIAN MISSILE STRENGTH. TWINING DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE FIGURES IN PUBLIC.

IN HIS PREVIOUS PUBLIC TESTIMONY, TWINING SPLIT SHARPLY WITH OTHER U.S. MILITARY CHIEFS IN THEIR DEMANDS FOR MORE MISSILES, MORE POLARIS SUBMARINE AND SWIFTER ACTION TO SET UP A CONTINUOUS AIRBORNE BOMBER ALERT.

DETAILS OF THE GENERAL'S SUBSEQUENT CLOSED-DOOR TESTIMONY WERE NOT MADE PUBLIC, BUT PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LYNDON B. JOHNSON D-TEX.) SAID IN A STATEMENT ISSUED LATER THAT THE MEETING "WAS DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES."

JOHNSON ALSO SAID IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO PUT OFF THE SCHEDULED TESTIMONY OF DEFENSE SECRETARY THOMAS S. GATES JR. ON THE MISSILE CONTROVERSY "PENDING FURTHER TESTIMONY BY DULLES."

2/9--EG803P